

**International Golden Programme Villa Zlatica**

## **CONNECTIONS: MUSEUMS FACING CRISES**

***22 – 24 October 2023, Ljubljana / Slovenia***



**Organizer:** International Foundation Forum of Slavic Cultures

**Venue:** Ljubljana / Slovenia, Villa Zlatica (headquarters of the Forum of Slavic Cultures)

**Target public:** Directors and managers, experts, award winning and nominated museums for the Živa award

## **The Forum of Slavic Cultures continues with the annual 2023 Villa Zlatica School programme!**

The Forum of Slavic Cultures is an international foundation, a non-profit and non-government organization, whose idea emerged in the cultural circles at the turn of the 21st century. The organization was officially founded in 2004, and today unites a few hundred millions of Slavs in 13 Slavic countries. It connects and represents Slavic culture, science and arts, their creative charge and heritage, while investing its efforts in bringing the recognizable contribution of Slavic cultures to the global dialogue.

The theme Connections highlights some current crises issues in contemporary society and links them with the activities of museums. The subject matter shows museums as important societal actors with new concepts of curatorship and new community practices, where museums are understood as a space of belonging, collective action and trust. Speakers analyse different ethical challenges and questions - especially in the process of repatriation of museum objects and collections and in confrontation with the new quality and perspective of difficult and contested heritage. The dilemmas and challenges working in unprecedented economic, social, and health-related challenges, which require resilient leadership, or in the context of mass tourism, will be also discussed and presented with some action strategies.

By highlighting such issues, the programme underlines the museum's innovative and active approaches, present innovative work, show successful solutions in uncertain situations and new working models.

We pay special attention to the presentation of good practices of FSK museums.



## PROGRAMME

Venue: **Ljubljana / Slovenia, Villa Zlatica** (headquarters of the Forum of Slavic Cultures)

### SUNDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2023

17.00-19.00	<i>Late afternoon registration in the Villa Zlatica Guided tour of Villa Zlatica and Ivan Hribar exhibition Evening reception</i>
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### MONDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2023

09.00-09.15	<i>Inaugural addresses Presentation of the programme Presentation of the participants</i>
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09.15-09.45	<i>Introductory presentation</i> <b>FSK Museums Confronting Current Crisis Issues</b> <b>Andreja Rihter</b>
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09.45-11.00	<i>Lecture</i> <b>Reconsideration of the Role of Museums: Between Participation and Insurgency</b> <b>Peter van Mensch</b>
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11.00-11.30	<i>Break</i>
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11.30-12.45	<i>Lecture</i> <b>Restitution and Repatriation: Encounters and Relationships</b> <b>Léontine Meijer-van Mensch</b>
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12.45-13.30	<i>Discussion</i>
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13.30-15.00	<i>Lunch</i>
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15.00-15.45	<i>Lecture</i> <b>Museums Facing Crises: Sustainable Development and Community Practices</b> <b>Tina Palačić</b>
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15.45-16.30	<i>Lecture</i> <b>Museums and Difficult Heritage</b> <b>Lidija Nikočević</b>
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16.30-17.00	<i>Discussion</i>
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17.00-18.00	<i>Refreshments and closing of the first day</i>
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**TUESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2023**

09.00-09.45	<i>Lecture</i> <b>Crisis Museum Management</b> Pavel Douša
09.45-10.30	<i>Lecture</i> <b>Heritage Treasures and Mass Tourism: Friends or Foes?</b> Neda Knežević
10.30-11.00	<i>Break</i>
11.00-12.30	<b>FSK presentation of good practises overcoming global problems</b> <b>Three presentations of selected projects, FSK members</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Tijana Palkovljević Bugarski: <i>Connections / Museums faces Crises. Three projects of the Gallery of Matica Srpska</i></li><li>▪ Meri Stojanova: <i>Changing museums - on the case of NI "Institute and museum" - Bitola</i></li><li>▪ HIM <i>Heritage in Motion - New Routes for Audience into Collections</i></li></ul>
12.30-13.30	<i>Round table and discussion with lecturers and participants</i> <b>Endangered Heritage – proposals for joint projects</b> The roundtable will highlight common problems and outline a way forward to tackle them together. We will identify the most pressing issues and develop proposals for joint projects involving FSK museums and potential partners.
13.30-14.00	<i>Awarding of certificates</i> <i>Wrap-up</i>
14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
16.00-17.00	<i>Guided tour, Slovene Ethnographic Museum</i>  <b>Folk art between home and the world: the SEM's and IRWIN's NSK Folk art Collection (Bojana Rogelj Škafar, PhD, author of the exhibition)</b>

## SPEAKERS AND ABSTRACTS



**PETER VAN MENSCH**  
The Netherlands

### Biography

Peter van Mensch is an independent museologist, formerly active as professor of museology at the Reinwardt Academy (Amsterdam School of the Arts) and the universities of Bergamo (Italy) and Vilnius (Lithuania). He was active in a number of national and international museum organisations and regular lecturer at various museum studies programmes. He was president of the ICOM International Committee for Museology (ICOFOM).

### *Reconsideration of the Role of Museums: Between Participation and Insurgency*

A popular slogan in contemporary museology is “Museums are not neutral”. Museums have never been neutral, but the present urge to become more activist, present an interesting challenge to museums and their staff, not in the least with regard to the issue of trust. In order to strengthen the relationship with the society, museums have enthusiastically adopted strategies of participation. A problem however is the asymmetry of power. In practice, the implementation of a dialogue between a museum and its ‘implicated communities’ is hardly based on equality. To what extent equality can be attained is the outcome of a process of negotiation in the context of the social accountability of the museum as public institution. This means that in the end the museum tends to direct the negotiation process towards a socially (and politically) acceptable compromise. An alternative vision is that participation could also mean that the museum accepts that activist groups use its spaces to express insurgent messages. Such transfer of control may be an inescapable and even necessary step in the development of the social role of museums beyond the era of participation. This will of course bring many difficulties to the museum management in terms of responsibility and accountability, but it might be the only way to retain or gain credibility and trust among a variety of implicated communities.



**LÉONTINE MEIJER-VAN MENSCH**

The Netherlands

## **Biography**

Léontine Meijer-van Mensch is director of the State Ethnographic Collections of Saxony (i.e. the ethnographic museums in Dresden, Leipzig and Herrnhut). Before that she was programme director of the Jewish Museum Berlin, deputy director of the Museum of European Cultures (Berlin), and lecturer of museology and professional ethics at the Reinwardt Academy (Amsterdam). She is active in a number of national and international museum organisations and regular lecturer at various museum studies programmes. She was president of the ICOM International Committee for Collecting (COMCOL), and member of ICOM's Executive Board. At present she is chair of the ICOM Standing Committee of Ethics.

## ***Restitution and Repatriation: Encounters and Relationships***

In contemporary museology part of the social contract between museums and society is that museums are prepared to address past and present injustices that underly their daily work. Collecting practices were (and actually are) not always free from asymmetric power relations, or even downright violence. In the 19th and the early 20th centuries, museums attained human remains directly or indirectly through abduction, grave robbery or as a result of colonial wars. They were included in the collections and became “scientific objects”. Internationally, museums are engaged in processes to give back those remains their dignity as human beings (“re-humanisation”). Key to the success of such processes is the cooperation with the communities of origin. The intended outcome of cooperation with communities of origin is a new relationship based upon new forms of “relational ethics”, i.e. not based upon asymmetry of power. This challenges old professional concepts of intellectual and legal ownership. It might be tempting to adopt the concept of “mutual ownership”, but it should not be cosmetic charade to ease our conscience.



**TINA PALAČ**  
Slovenia

## **Biography**

Tina Palač is a cultural anthropologist and museum curator who leads the project “Taking Care. Ethnographic and World Cultures Museums as Spaces of Care” at the Slovene Ethnographic Museum. She explores different modes of decolonial museology in East-Central Europe with the focus on collaborative practices. In her PhD research, she is focused on ethnological and museological practices of knowledge production on non-European cultures that emerged during the Non-Aligned movement in Slovenia, the former Yugoslav republic.

### ***Museums Facing Crises: Sustainable Development and Community Practices***

Contemporary society is characterised by feelings of fear and anxiety linked to climate change, migration and armed conflicts. As important societal actors, museums need to respond to the pressing issues and create a safe space where various publics can draw on their heritage and envision alternative futures. Museums need to function as spaces of belonging and collective action, while also questioning their own institutional practices. The lecture will present the European project “Taking Care. Ethnographic and World Cultures Museums as Spaces of Care” (2019-2023), which brings together 13 European ethnographic museums with the aim to address climate change by exploring their non-European collections. First, it will highlight the specificities and positioning of the Slovene Ethnographic Museum within the project from the perspective of Europe's semi-periphery. Second, it will discuss practices of collaboration and co-creation of museum narratives with various audiences, as well as a number of institutional measures to lessen the effects of climate change.



**LIDIJA NIKOČEVIĆ**  
Croatia

## **Biography**

An experienced museum professional dealing with tangible and especially intangible heritage. She has been very active in ICOM, EMA and other international associations within the field of museology, heritage studies and anthropology. For many years she has been judge for two international and two Croatian museum awards.

## ***Museums and Difficult Heritage***

Difficult heritage has been in the focus of the museum's interest for many years. However, recent demographic and political developments in Europe and throughout the world have brought a new quality, content and perspective to the concept of dissonant heritage. Recent transformations that include anti-democratic movements and right-wing populists within European democracies are making use of the discourses of established heritage and memory practices. The multiple meanings and features of this kind of heritage are subject to changing processes that reveal political struggles for cultural hegemony: which memory should prevail over the others?

Museums can be contested sites for presenting and discussing difficult heritage since they can communicate subjective narratives that challenge mainstream ideas. Many of them result from endeavours with a purpose of emphasizing the history of a specific area, a group or community, or events that might not be covered satisfactorily through other mediums. As a consequence, museums frequently aim to foster not only awareness but also sympathy for the cause displayed and, as such, are interested in a social and political process. What might be involved is "affective curatorship" that examines how emotions can be used in curatorial practice in connection with the exhibition theme, activities, design, and the senses.





**PAVEL DOUŠA**  
Czech Republic

## **Biography**

Museologist and scientist in the field of marketing, cultural heritage and history. He worked at Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, Prague Zoo and National Museum and was Director of the Historical Museum. In his professional activities he engages in management, marketing and presentation of cultural heritage, collections management and management of digital content, museology and museum studies. He participated in solution of developing museum projects. As Deputy Director General of the National Agriculture Museum is in charge of Kačina Chateau – Museum of Czech Rural Life.

## ***Crisis Museum Management***

Unprecedented economic, social, and health-related challenges require decisive and resilient leadership from museum directors and boards. Are there ways, examples and effective practices to successfully navigate through these difficult times? How can we use our voice to advocate for museums in times of crisis? What is the impact that pandemic (and times of crisis in general) has had on our institutions and how museums are continuing to serve the community while there are closed? What is the meaning of an “Exit Strategy“ and how is it applied in museums?



**NEDA KNEŽEVIĆ**

Serbia

### **Biography**

Senior curator, director of the Museum of Yugoslavia since 2012. Born in Belgrade, where she graduated in archeology at the Faculty of Philosophy and earned a Master's degree in the field of history and philosophy of natural science and technology. For more than two decades, she has been engaged in the protection, management, promotion and presentation of cultural heritage through the public and private sectors. One of the founders of the NGO Association for the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage *ARCH*, member of the Executive Board of the Nikola Tesla Museum.

### ***Heritage Treasures and Mass Tourism: Friends or Foes?***

Tourism is a global phenomenon nowadays. It is about to become the world's largest industry, already being crucial to many national and local economies. To a great extent, it feeds off a wide range of heritage - obvious monuments, movable treasures, indigenous cultures, ideas and images. How can heritage sites be protected from, while being enjoyed by, 'the ravaging hordes'? What are tourist operators' responsibilities, intellectually, as well as to the museums, which provide the attractions? The Museum of Yugoslavia in Belgrade is one of the most visited museums in Serbia. The number of visitors is growing every year. Is its diverse audience, consisting of foreign tourists who consider the Museum the main destination during their visit to Belgrade, regional visitors who were born in Yugoslavia, and families with children who come to the workshops and gatherings in the museum's Sculpture Park, a friend or foe? The presentation will introduce the dilemmas and challenges that the museum team faces in working in this particular context, as well as some of the action strategies designed to balance the seesaw and respond to the demands of diverse audiences and stakeholders.



**TIJANA PALKOVLJEVIĆ BUGARSKI**  
Serbia

## **Biography**

Palkovljević Bugarski defended her PhD dissertation in 2016 at the Department of Art History (Faculty of Philosophy, Belgrade). She has been employed at The Gallery of Matica Srpska since 2001 and in 2010, she became its director. She is a member of the Department of Fine Arts of Matica Srpska and the ICOM (International Committee of Museum) and acts as the coordinator for Serbia in the FSK Heritage Project Group. Since 2012, she is the national coordinator of the European Museum Academy. In 2017, she was elected for the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Novi Sad European Capital of Culture 2022 Foundation. Since 2022, she is the president of the Committee for election of the National (Serbian) Capital of Culture.

## ***Connections/Museums faces Crises. Three projects of the Gallery of Matica Srpska***

The Gallery of Matica Srpska in the 21st century went through a great number of transformations following contemporary museum standards and became a museum for all” – a title we proudly point out. The last global crisis was the covid pandemic in 2020/2021 which, among others, affected the work and the role of museums. But in 2022 when Novi Sad became the European Capital of Culture, museums faced new potentials and challenges in creating programs appealing to all visitors. This resulted in several interesting projects that the Gallery of Matica Srpska implemented; three of them deserve to be singled out: International Exhibition “Migrations in Art – the Art of Migrations” exploring the phenomenon of social migrations and their reasons and effects on societies and individuals, exhibition “Novi Sad Citizens Choose” which connected the city with their inhabitants through art and chosen artworks from the Gallery’s collection and “The Room for Indulgence”, a project which enabled visitors to spend some time with a single artwork in an isolated room, enjoying the special ambience with unique scents, music and lightning. All these projects proved that only museums that adapt quickly to all challenges can be appealing enough to the public and can be successful in keeping regular visitors, while, at the same time, attracting new audience.



**MERI STOJANOVA**

North Macedonia

## **Biography**

Meri Stojanova, PhD, was born in 1972 in Bitola, R. N. Macedonia, where she finished elementary and high school. She graduated, acquired her Masters and PhD title at the Institute for Ethnology and Anthropology at the Faculty of Natural Science in Skopje. She has been employed as Ethnologist Adviser at the NI "Institute and museum"- Bitola where, since 2019 she holds the position of the Director. She has participated in many national, international, scientific and professional conferences, published a number. of papers in national and international journals and prepared several museum exhibitions. As director, she worked on the preparation and implementation of several cross-border projects that lead to a vast range of infrastructural improvements in the institution.

### ***Changing museums - the case of NI "Institute and museum" - Bitola***

When we think or discuss museums each and every one of us will have a different idea, trying to generate and encompass the real meaning of the word museum and the real meaning of a museum institution, of course, if such "real" term even exists. ICOM itself faced the same challenge in re-defining museums' position and notion of their existence as it constantly evolves. And obviously it's not an easy task. However, museums and museum professionals haven't stopped their constant work and efforts to re-define museums' position in the societies, to give the answers to these questions and above all to try to re-discover the past through tangible and intangible elements that they have at their disposal. This constant efforts, and new challenges that we are facing on the daily basis in the contemporary world, incited us to undertake a vast range of activities in order to respond to at least some of the needs of our visitors.



**ANDREJA RIHTER**

Slovenia

## **Biography**

Andreja Rihter, PhD in History, works as Director of International foundation Forum of Slavic Cultures in Slovenia. She has a professional title of Senior Curator. She was director Museum of Recent History in Celje and President Association of the Museums of Slovenia.

She has 25 years of experience in the field of museology and is the founder of the International Summer School of Museology in Piran and runs PIRANOVA heritage research centre. During professional career she participated and lectured at various professional meetings and conferences in Slovenia and especially abroad. She published more than 200 works in Slovenia and foreign publications. She is actively engaged in various international project and author of the Council of Europe Recommendation: The protection of privacy and personal data on the internet and in the online media (2011).

She is President European Museum Academy, President of the Women Writer Route (Cultural Route of the Council of Europe). She was the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Culture Heritage and member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Between 2000 – 2004, she was Slovenian Minister of Culture.

## ***FSK Museums Confronting Current Crisis Issues***

Various problems, crises, dangers and disasters that are currently shaking the world threaten also our rich and irreplaceable cultural heritage. Environmental crises, natural disasters, armed conflicts, etc. have catastrophic consequences for many cultural and natural monuments, for the functioning of museums, for professional staff and for the preservation of heritage. It is therefore extremely important that museums and other heritage institutions, as a key interlocutor, actively address these issues and offer possible approaches to alleviate or even prevent the consequences. The turbulent times do not spare the FSK museums, the circumstances in our environment are particularly difficult. That is why the FSK is also a strong network for mutual support, solidarity, knowledge exchange, training and joint projects to prevent consequences. We are stronger by connecting and trusting each other.

## MUSEUM VISIT

### FOLK ART BETWEEN HOME AND THE WORLD: THE SEM'S AND IRWIN'S NSK FOLK ART COLLECTION, SLOVENE ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

**Bojana Rogelj Škafar, PhD, author of the exhibition:**

Through the exhibition, the Slovene Ethnographic Museum contrasts an “iconic Slovene folk art anthology” and a modern global NSK (Neue Sloweinsche Kunst) *folk art* production, examining and questioning the meaning of one of the collections of traditions and juxtaposing it against a collection of artefacts that are appearing as part of modern social processes of identity. This offers the message that creating a community identity is a conscious process in which a selection also takes place of the symbolic visual components that are supposed to represent the community. In the case of the Slovene nation, the source of these components were objects of traditional culture, and in the case of the NSK citizens, artistic NSK production.



## ABOUT LJUBLJANA AND VILLA ZLATICA

### MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES IN LJUBLJANA

Ljubljana has a special charm. To enjoy the time in the capital of Slovenia, please explore tourist attractions, museums and galleries [HERE!](#)

### VILLA ZLATICA

The bourgeois villa in Rožna dolina, once the home of Ljubljana's famous mayor Ivan Hribar, was built in 1910. His daughter Zlatica lived there all her life and donated most of the family heirloom to the City Museum of Ljubljana and the villa to the State of Slovenia. In April 2010 the Government of the Republic of Slovenia transferred the ownership of the villa to the City of Ljubljana, which entrusted its management to the Museum and Galleries of Ljubljana.

Hribar's renovated Villa Zlatica opened its doors in May 2021. The first floor is dedicated to the presentation of the life of Ivan Hribar and the then bourgeoisie. The renovated premises of the former home of the Hribar family are fully equipped with original furniture. The villa is now also the headquarters of the Forum of Slavic Cultures, which has been housed in it since the renovation.

Read more about Villa Zlatica [HERE!](#)



Foto: Nik Rovar



Foto: Andrej Peunik



Foto: Archive of Forum of Slavic Cultures

## GETTING AROUND

It is very easy to get around in Ljubljana. As the city centre is relatively small, you can simply walk it or rent a bike. To get to other parts of Ljubljana you should use public transport like city bus system or a taxi.

Read more [HERE!](#)

## WEATHER

To make your stay in Ljubljana as pleasant as possible, check the weather forecast beforehand.

## CONTACT

For any additional information and assistance do not hesitate to contact us. Contact person is Ana Obid ([ana.obid@fsk.si](mailto:ana.obid@fsk.si)).



## REGISTRATION

Please fill out the online registration form available [HERE](#) if you would like to join the International Golden Programme Villa Zlatca: **Connections and Museums Facing Crises**.

## PARTICIPATION FEE

Early bird (until 1 August):

- FSK Member: **EUR 50.00\***
- Full rate: **EUR 70.00**

*The fee does not include accommodation.*

### Not a FSK member yet?\*

FSK Membership exclusive privileges:

- discount on Živa Award conference,
- discount on International Colloquium Piranova,
- discount on International Summer School of Museology,
- free FSK publications.

Read more about FSK membership [HERE!](#)

## Cancellation Policy

Notification of cancellation must be in writing, and send to the e-mail address [ana.obid@fsk.si](mailto:ana.obid@fsk.si).

- Before 1 September 2023: Full refund
- After 2 September 2023: 50 % refund

No refund will be granted after 20 September.

## PAYMENT INFO

Please, transfer the payment to the following bank account (Reference: Villa Zlatca 2023) and send the copy of the bank transfer receipt to Forum of Slavic Cultures, [katarina.bogataj@fsk.si](mailto:katarina.bogataj@fsk.si).

- **Bank name:** UniCredit Banka Slovenija d.d., Šmartinska 140, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenija.
- **Account holder:** Mednarodna ustanova Forum slovanskih kultur
- **Account holder address:** Ulica 27. aprila 47, 1000 Ljubljana.
- **IBAN:** SI56 2900 0005 0604 466
- **SWIFT / BIC:** BACXSI22